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January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Penna. Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Some of the main complaints against Microsoft may well have been justifiable in the beginning, but the course of the lawsuit made it quite clear that resolving these complaints quickly became secondary to punishing Microsoft for its successes. When the rhetoric started escalating to include threats of breaking up Microsoft, the entire matter crossed the line.

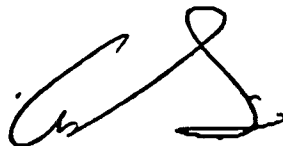
Potentially, a breakup of the size and importance of Microsoft could have had devastating effects upon the IT industry, as well as our national economy. To force consumers and IT businesses to triple source their software needs at painfully higher anticipated prices to cover the inevitable administrative costs of running three companies could have brought the computer revolution to a screeching standstill overnight.

Thankfully, cooler thinking prevailed and the lawsuit came to a screeching halt, rather than our economy. The resulting settlement has the advantage of ending the hostilities, as well as addressing most of the original complaints leveled against Microsoft. That Microsoft will need, for example, to be treating its OEMs and third party software developers with more openness and flexibility is a good thing.

I am therefore writing in support of the settlement and hope that it is found to be acceptable throughout the balance of this legal process.

Sincerely,

Brian Sims
MCSE, MCT

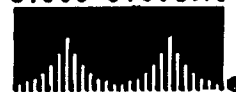


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